

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the claims. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 7, 8, 14-26 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,595,707 to Kuwata under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 27-42 are allowable and claims 4-6 and 9-13 were identified as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants have amended the claims for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution and intend to file a continuation application to pursue the broader claims rejected in the Office Action. Claims 1, 5 and 7 are amended and claims 3 and 4 are canceled.

Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim: specifically, claim 4 depended from rejected claim 3 which depended from rejected claim 1. Applicants have incorporated all elements of claims 3 and 4 into claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is now allowable. Claim 5 was dependent of claim 4 and is now dependent on claim 1. Claim 7 is amended to correct a minor grammatical error. Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the amendments, claims 2 and 5-26 are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that all remaining claims in the application are allowable and request entry of the amendments to the claims and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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